

III. Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the Summary with the following Abstract:

ABSTRACT

"A SAFETY DEVICE"

A ~~safety device incorporates~~ seat belt retractor incorporating a force limiter to permit the restricted paying out of a ~~safety belt~~ seat belt webbing and a control mechanism for controlling the force limiting functions of the retractor. The arrangement includes a two part spindle within a retractor. On a first part of the spindle the safety belt is wound. A second part of the spindle is configured to be locked by a retractor locking device. The two spindle parts are interconnected by a belt load limiting torsion bar. The torsion bar has two ~~regions~~ sections of different ~~strengths,~~ torsional stiffness. The junction between the two ~~regions~~ torsion bar sections is releasably connected to part of the spindle. When the connection is present ~~there is~~ one energy absorbing level is provided and when the connection is broken controlled there is another energy absorbing level. The connection is broken in response to a relative movement between the two spindle parts caused by an initial belt force in excess of a predetermined force. When the initial belt load is less than a predetermined force, the control mechanism shifts from the first to the second load level. When the initial belt load is greater than the predetermined load level, the control mechanism maintains the first load level.